

A Selected Reading of Great Battles of the World

世界著名战役英汉读本

(下 册)

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commanders, picked from officers he scarcely knew and not, therefore, necessarily the best choices available. General Cunningham¹, selected to lead the newly-formed Eighth Army, had conducted a sparkling campaign in East Africa against the Italians but had no experience of handling armor, while General Ritchie, who later replaced him, had not commanded in battle since 1918.

Auchinleck's strong suit was his refusal to be prodded into premature action by Churchill, who was over-fond of firing off peremptory telegrams of detailed instruction to commanders in the field. After consideration of what he found, he decided that there could be no offensive action by the desert army until its strength had been built up and some vital training carried out, which meant early November before battle could be resumed. During this period Rommel, too, was consolidating, training and building up his strength and generally getting ready to drive into Egypt. But Tobruk was a thorn in his side since it was a constant potential source of a cutting-off flank attack, and moreover it was an attractive goal because it would give Rommel a supply harbor much closer to his front than Tripoli and thus reduce 在沙漠地区作战的部队指挥官几乎都不认识他,而且他还带来了一整队指挥官,这些指挥官是从他本人都不怎么认识的军官中提拔上来的,因此并不是最好的选择。其中,坎宁安将军被任命指挥新组建的第 8 集团军,他在东非战役中把意大利军队打得落花流水,但是他没有指挥装甲部队的经验,而后来又取而代之的里奇将军在 1918 年以后就没有再指挥过战役。

奥金莱克强烈要求拒绝执行丘吉尔发动一次不成熟的进攻的命令,丘吉尔颇为专横,太过热衷于向战场上的指挥官发去一些具体的作战指令。奥金莱克经过深思熟虑之后,认为在沙漠部队得到增强并进行了一些必不可少的训练之前,不应该采取任何进攻行动,这就意味着在11月初之后才可能恢复战事。在这段时间,隆美尔同样也在对其部队进行加强和训练,基本上已经作好了开进埃及的准备。但是托布鲁克是他的心腹之患,因为这里一直都可能对他发动侧翼进攻切断其军队,而托布鲁克也是一个非常有吸引力的作战目标,因为如果占领了这个地方,隆美尔就能得到一个比的黎波里近得多的供应港,这样就能够大大缩短运输

¹ Andrew Browne Cunningham (1883-1963), British naval officer, who received high honors for his services in the Boer War (1899-1902), World War I (1914-1918), and World War II (1939-1945).

the Panzers, everybody would meet at Tobruk and relieve the garrison there, and the whole force would then sweep to the west, overcome the Axis defenses in the Gazala area and drive the remnants of the German and Italian forces out of Cyrenaica once again.

According to the best intelligence estimates British armor outnumbered Axis armor by a significant degree; the British now had 736 tanks in first-line condition, while the Germans had 240 assorted Panzers, the Italians 150 medium and 160 light tanks, a grand total of 550 vehicles. Unfortunately the British armor was not to be employed as a mass, but was split up across the arena, largely due to the demand for armoured support from the various infantry formations. The 4th Armoured Brigade Group was part of XXX Corps and was to locate itself close to the New Zealand Division; but the 7th Armoured Brigade, accompanied by the 22nd Armoured Brigade (which had just arrived in the theater and had no experience of warfare) was to drive out into the desert and, instead of going hell-for-leather¹ for Tobruk, was to come to a stately halt after the first day's cruising and take up defensive positions around Gabr Saleh, an entirely unnoteworthy piece of desert about one third of the distance between the frontier and Tobruk. Here, it was 师,消灭驻守在那里的敌军,然后整个部队将挥师西进,突破轴心国在加萨拉的防线,从而再次把剩下的德意军队从昔兰尼加地区赶出去。

根据最新情报,英军装甲部队在数量上超过轴心国装甲部队很多,英军现在有736辆坦克可随时投入战斗,而德军有240辆混合型装甲车,意军有150辆中型和160辆轻型坦克,全部共计550辆。不幸的是英军的装甲部队不是一个整体,而是分散在整个战区,这主要是因为各个步兵单位要求装甲支援所致。第4装甲旅是第30军的一部分,要与新西兰师保持近距离的作战队形,但第7装甲旅和第22装甲旅(该旅刚刚赶到战场,以前没有作战经验)却要深入沙漠地带,他们的任务不是要拼命进攻托布鲁克,而是在第一天追击并夺取德军加布萨拉赫附近的敌军阵地之后再停下来,加布萨拉赫地区完全是个毫不起眼的沙漠地区,在前线和托布鲁克之间的1/3的距离。大家信心十足地预测这个地方将是引诱隆美尔装甲部队参战的诱饵,而隆美尔为什么一定会对这一行动采取回应措施,这

¹ extremely quickly and often recklessly (informal)

position, but then the German artillery arrived and began to add its weight to the battle. Soon the British were being forced back, leaving 26 tanks wrecked. At this moment 22nd Armoured Brigade, having finally disentangled themselves from Bir el Gubi and refueled, arrived on the scene, and this sudden reinforcement was enough to make the Germans pull back under cover of strong artillery fire. Darkness fell and the two forces separated and settled down for the night.

Battle lines are drawn at Sidi Rezegh

At Sidi Rezegh things had begun to hum. The Afrika Regiment which had repelled the exploratory attack on the previous day had called for reinforcements and artillery and infantry had been sent to strengthen their position. At dawn on 20 Novemenr this force felt sufficiently confident to mount a sharp attack on the airfield positions of 7th Armoured Brigade, though this was beaten off. Then another and heavier attack was launched by the Germans, this time aided by heavy artillery fire, and it became obvious that 7th Armoured, on their open airfield, were a sitting target. The second attack was also beaten off, but for the rest of the day there was sporadic shelling of anything which looked remotely military around the airfield. Cunningham had ordered an attack on the German position, but it was now 不得不向后撤退,留下了被击毁的 26 辆坦克。正在这个时候英军第 22 装甲旅赶到了,第 22 装甲旅终于从比尔古比脱身,重新加了油,现在突然赶到战场,大大增强了英军的力量,使德军不得不在炮火掩护下向后撤退。夜幕降临了,双方军队分开,各自安营扎寨过夜。

西迪雷泽格战线

西迪雷泽格现在也开始热闹起来了。德军非洲团前一天击退了英军的一次试探性进攻,现在要求增援,炮兵和步兵已经被运送过来加强其阵地。11 月 20 日早晨,非洲团信心十足地向英军第 7 装甲旅在机场上的阵地发起一次凌厉的进攻,然而这次进攻被挫败了。德军紧接着发起了一次更大的攻势,这次有了炮火支援。很明显,英军在毫无遮拦的机场上,已经成为很容易击中的目标。虽然这一次的进攻又被打退了,但是战事并没有平息,机场周围远远看上去有点像军事目标的地方遭到了一些零星的炮击。坎宁安命令向德军阵地发起进攻,但现在很

Brigade would take time to arrive, since they would need to hand over to 22nd Guards, but 5th SA Brigade were to move as quickly as possible so that they could thicken up the Rifle Brigade position on the ridge; there were indications that German forces were building up and might be preparing to attack.

The battle for Sidi Rezegh

Before the South Africans could even begin to move, however, the First Battle of Sidi Rezegh began. At 1415 fifty panzers were seen to be advancing from the west, with more tanks crowding along behind them and their usual accompanying anti-tank guns rolling along on their flanks. The first line of British defense was the guns of 4th Regiment RHA¹, and these were soon in action at point-blank range. Though they fired valiantly and took a toll of the advancing armor, the relentless pressure was bound to overcome them shortly unless relief arrived. And, surprisingly, relief did arrive, just in time. 22nd Armoured Brigade came roaring in from their desert tour, across the airfield, between the guns, and began to engage the panzers.

It was a short-lived relief; 22nd Armoured were rapidly shattered by the mass 为需要向第 22 卫队旅移交任务,但第 5 南非旅就必须尽快行动,这样就能增援山脊地带的步枪旅,有迹象表明德军在集结力量,可能准备发起攻击。

西迪雷泽格之战

不过,南非军队还没有来得及出动,西迪雷泽格的第一仗就打响了。在 14 点 15 分,50 辆德军坦克从西面开过来,身后还跟着更多的坦克,侧翼跟随的是德军惯常使用的反坦克大炮。英军的第一道防线由第 4 皇家骑炮兵团的大炮组成,很快就开始了近距离的平射。虽然英军炮火猛烈,击毁了德军一些前进的坦克,但德军无情的压力将很快打垮他们,除非有援军到来。幸运的是,援军终于到来了,时间刚刚好。第 22 装甲旅完成了沙漠之旅,隆隆开过机场,穿过大炮阵地,与德军坦克交上了手。

但这一支援是短暂的,第22装甲旅很快就被大量的德军坦克击溃了,不过,

¹ Abbreviation for Royal Horse Artillery.

careful not to damage any of the hospital facilities, were careful not to run over men lying on the ground, and generally went out of their way to avoid any damage to the non-combatants. But no sooner had the tank battle moved away than German infantry followed up and the entire hospital was made prisoners. Brigade Headquarters, some distance behind the Field Hospital, was made prisoner shortly afterwards.

Eventually the Germans secured the entire area and the Panzers pushed through to make contact with the German infantry holding the northern edge of the arena. 5th South African Brigade lay shattered, but the cost to the Germans had been terribly high, some 60 or 70 tanks and a high proportion of their battle-seasoned officers and senior NCOs1. What was left of the mixed British and South African force withdrew southwards; 7th Armoured Division now had about 70 tanks in running order. General Cunningham now realized that he no longer had the overwhelming superiority in armor with which he had begun the battle, and if Rommel maneuvered so as to get between the British and the Egyptian frontier there would be nothing to stop him driving straight to Cairo. The decision had to be taken; either continue the battle in hope of recouping something, or disengage entirely and withdraw back to Egypt. Disinclined to take such a responsibility, 医院附近激战。让医院的医务人员们非常惊异的是,双方的坦克都特别小心,避 免破坏任何医院设施、避免从躺在地上的伤员身上压过去,还尽量避免伤害非战 斗人员。但是, 坦克战才刚刚结束, 德军步兵就跟了上来, 整个医院的人员都成 了俘虏。野战医院背后不远的旅指挥部也很快落入德军手中。

最后德军占领了整个区域,装甲部队向前突进,与据守在战场北部边缘的步兵成功会合。第5南非旅被打得七零八落,但德军的损失也非常大,损失了约有60到70辆坦克,还有相当多久经沙场的军官和高级军士。残余的英军和南非军队向南撤退,而第7装甲师现在也只剩下了70辆左右的坦克。坎宁安将军现在意识到了,他在装甲部队方面已经不再占有绝对优势,如果隆美尔从英军和埃及前线之间突破,就没有什么可以阻止他直奔开罗了。必须作出决定了,要么继续战斗,以期挽回点儿损失,要么完全停止战斗,撤回到埃及。坎宁安

¹ Abbreviation for Non-Commissioned Officer

Tobruk perimeter. XXX Corps was given this task and was to be made up from 7th Armoured Division, 1st South African Brigade, 22nd Guards Brigade and 4th Indian Division who were to be relieved on the frontier by 2nd South African Division. But before this advance could take place it would be necessary to eliminate a strong German position some six miles north of Bir el Gubi. 11th Indian Brigade, supported by armor was sent to do this, but the attack failed and the Indians suffered heavy casualties.

Rommel's weaknesses

Rommel, for his part, was acutely aware of his forces still left on the frontier, and so leaving a strong force to watch the British around Sidi Rezegh, he sent out two columns eastwards to clear the lines of communication to his frontier positions. Both these were spotted from the air; the northern column was ambushed and destroyed by 5th New Zealand Division, while the southern was similarly caught and destroyed by 4th Indian Division.

Having seen the failure of this move, Rommel now decided on an all-out attack against the British force near Bir el Gubi. Stripping the masking troops from the eastern Tobruk perimeter, and ordering 15 and 21 Panzer plus the Ariete and Trieste 埃尔阿丹姆地区,这个地方是德军非洲军团的一个重要交通中心,在埃尔杜达以西大约 15 英里,离托布鲁克一带很近。英军第 30 军接到了这个任务,部队由第 7 装甲师、第 1 南非旅、第 22 卫队旅和第 4 印度师组成,他们将从前线撤走,留下的阵地由第 2 南非师接手。但是在行动之前,必须先要除掉比尔古比以北大约 6 英里左右的德军要塞。第 11 印度旅在装甲部队的支援下执行这次任务,但进攻失败了,印度军队遭到很大的伤亡。

隆美尔的弱点

另一方面,隆美尔清楚地意识到他的军队还留在前线,因此他留下一支很战斗力强的部队来应付西迪雷泽格一带的英军,另外派出了两支部队前往东部,疏通通往前线阵地的交通线。这两支部队都被英军空军侦察到了,北翼军队被第5新西兰师伏击消灭,而南翼军队则被第4印度师歼灭。

这次行动失败后,隆美尔决定对比尔古比的英军发起全面进攻。他命令托布

use for their original purpose of accompanying and supporting infantry. It is likely that the future will show that the true tactical descendant of the original tank is actually today's 'infantry fighting vehicle', but this is, as yet, a matter of speculation.

The next important lesson to be extracted from Crusader is that of organization. For reasons which are involved and would demand very long and detailed explanation, the British forces in the desert became convinced that the division—that building brick of armies—was an unwieldy formation, and the fashion for 'Brigade Groups', 'Battle groups'. 'Columns', and other fragmented formations took over. As a result, British formations tended to be fed into battle piecemeal, battalions and brigades at a time, chewed up, and replaced by more of the same. On the other side the Germans kept their divisions together as much as possible, rarely broke them down into smaller formations and then only for special purposes, and thus managed to produce more power at the point of decision. As a side-issue from this fragmentation of formations, the British also demolished their artillery organization; instead of a divisional artillery which could be switched around from target to target with massive effect, regiments and batteries were detached and sent hither and thither about the desert in formations too small to 去了四十几年之后,虽然还有数不清的相反的例证,现在在很多地方都还仍然认 为,坦克的天敌就是另一辆坦克。这就是为什么到了八十年代时坦克仍然是消灭 其他坦克的高度专门武器,而在伴随和支持步兵这一本来的用途上却没有什么用 处。未来很可能显示,真正继承原先坦克衣钵的战术武器实际上是今天的"步兵 战车",但这在目前还只是推断而已。

十字军计划中另一个重要的教训是军队组织问题。由于诸多需要冗长而详细解释的原因,沙漠上的英军相信,师这个军队的基础建制是一个很不实用的建制,因此很流行使用"旅"、"战斗群"、"纵队"和其他分解的建制取而代之。结果,英军的这些部队在战斗中就被零碎地投入使用,一次几个营几个旅,被敌人消灭,又再次投入相同的部队。另一方面,德军尽可能地把师聚合在一起,很少把师分成更小的建制,除非为了达到特殊的目的之外,因此在作决定时就能更加有力。分散建制还造成了另一个问题,英军还打破了炮兵建制,没有用可以在战场上不断转移目标并造成很大作用的师一级的炮兵部队,而是把团和炮兵分

阿拉曼战役

第二次世界大战期间,英军于 1942 年 10 月至 11 月在埃及阿拉曼地区对德、意军发动进攻。1940 年 12 月,意军在北非被英军击溃,翌年 2 月,隆美尔率德国非洲军增援,击败英军。1942 年 6 月,英军退守亚历山大港以西百余公里的阿拉曼防线。8 月中旬,蒙哥马利接任英军第 8 集团军司令,着手补充兵员和装备,加强部队训练,为大规模进攻做准备。进攻前,英军兵力增至 11 个师、5个旅,约 23 万人,士气高涨,补给充足。当时,德军主力陷于苏德战场,在北非,德、意军只有 12 个师,总兵力仅 9 万余人,补给困难。10 月 23 日夜,英军向德军防线展开突然猛攻,周密巧妙的伪装实现了战役的突然性,但德军防守严密,两次突击未能成功。11 月 2 日英军凭借优势兵力和制空权再次进攻,终于在德、意军结合部打开缺口,坦克部队突入纵深,对德军形成围歼之势。4日,德军急速西撤。英军未及时追击,使德、意军免遭全歼。此次战役,德、意军伤亡约 2 万人,被俘 3 万多人,英军伤亡 1.35 万人。阿拉曼战役是第二次世界大战中非洲战局的转折点,从此战场的主动权完全转移到盟军手里。

aware of a British superiority of 2 to 1 in tanks when, in fact, it was nearer 2 and a half to 1 overall (including 300 Italian tanks) and 5 and a half to 1 counting Germans alone. And the Royal Air Force now dominated the air, making the Luftwaffe's despairing efforts appear puny by comparison. While in Rome, Rommel told Mussolini that unless the supply position was improved the Axis would have to get out of North Africa, but he sensed his failure to transmit the gravity of the situation and in Berlin he recoiled before a wall of blind optimism and false promises.

At the front, meanwhile, all Panzerarmee¹ could do was prepare an even denser fortified area in the neck between the sea and the Qattara Depression², based on the prime consideration that, if they were driven out into the open, they would be overwhelmed for lack of sufficient vehicles or fuel to withdraw or fight a mobile rearguard action. Thus they planned to hold each piece of ground at all costs, cleaning up each enemy penetration with an immediate counterattack.

The German system of defense which evolved was not unlike that to be found 都每况愈下,跟英军比起来前景越来越晦暗。比如,隆美尔心里很清楚,现在英军在坦克方面有 2:1 的优势,实际上差不多是 2.5:1 了 (包括 300 辆意大利坦克),如果只算德国坦克的话,英军的优势比例就达到了 5.5:1。而且现在英国皇家空军也赢得了制空权,使德国空军孤注一掷的努力显得微不足道。在罗马的时候,隆美尔告诉墨索里尼说,除非供应情况得到改善,否则轴心国将不得不从北非撤出,但是他感觉到他并没有能够让墨索里尼明白问题的严重性,在柏林,面对很多人盲目乐观的情绪和空头的许诺,他只能退缩。

与此同时,前线的德军装甲军团所能做的就是加强在海洋和盖塔拉低地之间地区的防守,这样做的主要考虑是,如果他们被敌军赶到了旷野之上,他们就会因为缺乏足够的车辆和汽油来撤退,也不能进行一场有效的后卫部队机动作战。因此他们就打算不惜一切代价,死守着每一块土地,敌人一有突破,马上就反击回去。

现在德军的防御体系和第一次世界大战时西部战线的防御体系没有什么区

¹ German armoured force (Panzer: a German armoured unit, literally "coat of mail" in German).

² Qattara Depression, desert basin in the northeastern Sahara, northwestern Egypt. It is largely a sandy region with salt lakes and marshes; because it is impassable to vehicles, the Qattara Depression was important during World War II (1939-1945) as the southern end of the British defense lines at Al 'Alamayn (El 'Alamein).

his troops could be dealt with more or less at leisure.

The Army Commander had laid down three basic fundamentals which would govern the preparatory period. These were: leadership, equipment, training. He soon put the first matter in order, and the re-equipment of the army was going well. But early in October he realized that the training of the army was still below what was required and in view of this weakness made one of his rapid decisions. He would alter the conception of the plan so that instead of first going all out to destroy the enemy's armour, he would eat away the enemy's holding troops—who were for the most part unarmored—and use our armor to stop the enemy from interfering. Without their infantry divisions to hold the line, providing firm bases for their mobile forces, the enemy's armor would be at a grave disadvantage and their supply routes would be constantly threatened. It was unlikely that they would stand idly by while this 'crumbling' process was going on, and so it was probable that would force his armor to attack us, which, once we were in a position to receive it, would be to our advantage.

The final plan in outline as given out by the Army Commander on October 6 was as follows:

● Main attack by 30th Corps in the north on a front of four divisions [to 歼灭。这符合一般的军事理论。敌军的装甲部队消灭掉以后,对付其他部队就或多或少要容易一些了。

蒙哥马利司令阐述了在准备阶段的三个要点,分别是:领导、装备和训练。他很快就将第一点付诸实施,军队的重新装备进展也顺利。但是到了10月初,他意识到军队的训练还没有达到要求,正是考虑到这个缺陷,蒙哥马利当机立断,改变作战计划,不再是倾巢出动去消灭敌人的装甲部队,而是先去消灭敌人的防卫部队,他们大部分都没有装甲部队,同时我们用装甲部队阻止敌人干扰。敌人的装甲部队一旦没有了步兵师守住防线并为其机动部队提供牢固的基地,就会处于非常不利的形势,敌军的供应线就会经常处于威胁之下。面对着这样的"粉碎行动",敌人不可能毫不所动,很可能会派出装甲部队来向我们进攻,这样一来,形势就对我们有利。

蒙哥马利在10月6日拟定的最终作战计划如下:

● 第30 军在北部发动总攻,前锋为4个师,任务是在敌军主要防卫地区之

secure a bridgehead—objective 'Oxalic'—beyond the enemy's main defended zone]. Two corridors were to be cleared through the minefields, and through these lanes 10th Corps was to pass.

- 13th Corps in the south was to stage two attacks. One directed on Himeimat and the Taqa feature. The other into the area of Gebel Kalakh and Qaret el Khadim. These attacks were to be made with the primary object of misleading the enemy and thereby containing forces that might otherwise be used against 30th Corps.
- Both the above corps were to destroy the enemy holding the forward positions.
- 10th Corps was to deploy itself [to a line 'Pierson', just west of 'Oxalic'] so as to prevent 30th Corps' operations from being interfered with. And its final object [by an advance to area 'Skinflint'] was the destruction of the enemy's armor.
 - The attack was to start at night during the full moon.

The artillery plan was very carefully prepared. We would go into battle with great gun power and considerable supplies of ammunition. The battle was to open with a very heavy counter-battery bombardment, and then most of our artillery would concentrate on the enemy defenses by barrage and concentrations.

外夺取一个代号为"酢浆草"的目标地带,在地雷阵上打通两条通道,让第 10 军通过。

- 南部由第 13 军发动两场进攻战、其中的一场进攻的目标是希梅马特和塔卡,另一场的目标是卡拉克山和哈迪姆山。这两场进攻的主要目的是误导敌人,从而牵制那些本来可能用来对付 30 军的敌军。
 - 以上两军都要摧毁敌军的前沿阵地。
- 第 10 军的任务是在"酢浆草"以西代号为"皮尔逊"一带进行部署,保证第 30 军的行动不受干扰,而其最终的目标是前进到代号为"吝啬鬼"地区,消灭敌人的装甲部队。
 - 进攻在一个月圆之夜展开。

我们还认真制订了炮火支援的计划,我们将带着强大的火力和大量的弹药开始进攻。开战之前首先是针对敌军的炮兵阵地进行猛烈炮击,然后我们的大多数 火炮将以弹幕射击和集中射击的方式轰击敌军阵地。 took place at night, and we had special dummy vehicles made under which guns could be concealed. All moves forward were of course rigidly controlled, and slit trenches were dug and camouflaged at night in which the assault infantry could be concealed.

The next task was to make the enemy think that the main attack would be launched in the southern sector. This, I might add, was not very popular with 13th Corps, but they nobly accepted the plan for the common good. Besides various other methods adopted, we built large dummy dumps away to the south, and also a dummy pipe line and water installations. It was so arranged that the work would appear to the enemy to be aimed at completion a week or two after the actual date of our attack. Finally on the night of the attack itself the wireless traffic of the headquarters of an armored division was so employed as to indicate that a large move of armored forces was taking place in the southern sector.

On the night of the 23rd we arranged for a feint landing to take place behind the enemy's lines. About 4 pm a convoy sailed westwards out of Alexandria. After dark ness all but a few fast craft put back, but those remaining staged a dummy landing. Shelling of the coast, mortar and machine-gun fire, and light signals were used. It was timed to take place about three hours after our attack had started, and it 为了达到这个目标,我们动用了空闲的交通工具和虚假的交通工具,然后逐渐由执行突袭任务单位和编队在到达预定地点时用自己的交通工具替换掉。这些行动都在晚上进行,而且我们还特制了可以掩盖火炮的伪装车辆。当然所有向前推进的行动都进行严格控制,在晚上还进行挖掘并伪装壕沟,这样突袭步兵可以隐藏在里面。

接下来的任务是要让敌人相信我们将在南部发起总攻。这里我想补充一点,当时第13军并不怎么喜欢这个安排,但是他们为了顾全大局还是很有风度地接受了。除了许许多多的方法之外,我们还假装在南部堆放了一些物资,还建造了一条假的水管和一些输水装置。我们刻意要让敌人觉得这些工程将在我们实际进攻日前的一两个星期之后才能完工。最后,在进攻日的那天晚上,我们一支装甲师总部的无线电通讯也故意显示在南部有大规模的装甲部队在移动。

在23日晚我们还安排了在敌后的一次假登陆演习,大约在下午4点,一个船队从亚历山大港向西驶出,天黑以后,除了几艘快艇以外所有的船只都返回来了,但剩下的这几艘快艇就开始进行佯攻,向岸边进行炮击,还有迫击炮和机枪

learned gone into very carefully by the various commanders. And by the end of the third week in October we realized that all these vast preparations were successfully reaching their conclusion. From the staff point of view there was a healthy slackening of the tempo of work, denoting that the stage was now set.

Montgomery had been indefatigable, and had satisfied himself that all was in readiness. He very rightly had decided that in order to get the best out of his troops it was necessary for them to know the whole plan so that they would realize how their particular contribution fitted in with the general scheme of things.

On October 19 to 20 he addressed all officers down to lieutenant-colonel level in 30th,13th and 10th Corps. It was a real tour de force. These talks were some of the best he had ever given, clear and full of confidence. He touched on the enemy situation, stressing their weaknesses, and said he was certain a long 'dog-fight' or 'killing match' would take place for several days—'it might be ten'. He then gave details of our great strength, our tanks, our guns, and the enormous supplies of ammunition available. He drummed in the need never to lose the initiative, and how everyone—everyone—must be imbued with the burning desire to 'kill Germans'. 'Even the padres—one per weekday and two on Sundays!' This produced a roar. 了认真的研究。到 10 月的第 3 个星期时,我们意识到这些大规模的准备已经成功地接近尾声了。从军事参谋的角度来说,现在稍微放缓一下节奏,其实是一种有益的放松,这说明这一阶段的准备工作已经完成了。

蒙哥马利总是那么不知疲倦,对所有的准备工作也很满意。他当时很正确地 作出决定,为了使他的部队发挥最大的作用,他觉得很有必要让部队了解整个计 划,这样他们就能意识到自己在整个战役计划当中的作用。

10月19和20日,他向第30军、第13军和第10军所有下至中校的军官发表了一系列讲话。这真算得上是杰作,这些讲话是他所有演讲中最好的之一,言简意赅,信心十足。他讲到了敌人的形势,强调敌人的弱点,他很有把握地认为这场漫长的"恶战"或者叫"杀人比赛"将持续好几天——"可能是10天"。然后他仔细讲述了我方强大的优势,坦克、火炮、还有庞大的弹药储备。他反复强调自始至终保持主动的必要性,强调每个人——所有的人——都要有强烈的去"杀死

¹ go into: examine or look into sth. in detail and with thoroughness